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Bi-1202 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE April, 1932. OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, D. C

APRI 32

ORDER

PERMITTING THE KILLING OF COOTS WHICH SHALL BECOME SERIOUSLY INJURIOUS TO AGRICULTURAL CROPS OR OTHER INTERESTS

Information having been furnished the Secretary of Agriculture that coots have become, under extraordinary conditions, seriously injurious to agricultural crops and other interests in the States of Arizona, California, New Mexico, Oregon, and Washington, and an investigation having been made to determine the nature and extent of the injury complained of and whether the birds alleged to be doing the damage should be killed, and, if so, during what times and by what means; and it having been determined by the Secretary of Agriculture that coots have become, under extraordinary conditions, seriously injurious to agricultural crops and other interests in the States of Arizona, California, New Mexico, Oregon, and Washington, and that the coots doing the damage should be killed,

Now, therefore, I, R. W. Dunlap, Acting Secretary of Agriculture, pursuant to authority in me vested by the migratorybird treaty-act of July 3, 1918, and in accordance with regulation 10 of the migratory-bird treaty-act regulations approved and proclaimed July 31, 1918, do hereby order that any person owning or leasing land in the States of Arizona, California, New Mexico, Oregon, and Washington, on which agricultural crops or other interests are being damaged, such owner or lessee, member of his immediate family, or authorized representative, when authorized by a permit issued by the Secretary of Agriculture and countersigned as hereinafter provided, may kill coots by shooting during the close season under the migratory bird treaty act regulations from half an hour before sunrise to half an hour after sunset on any day during the period prescribed in such permit, on such lands when such coots are committing or are about to commit serious injury to agricultural crops or other interests, and it is necessary to kill such coots to protect said crops or interests from damage, but no person shall shoot at coots from any artificial or natural blinds; nor shall coots so killed be sold or offered for sale, or be shipped, transported, or carried in any manner except that they may be carried by the person killing them to his residence or the residence of the owner or lessee on the lands where killed and there may be used for food by the person or persons authorized

to kill them, or they may be delivered to hospitals and/or charitable institutions for use as food; birds not used for food shall be totally and promptly destroyed. Coots killed under authority of permits issued hereunder may be possessed during the period for which the permit is issued and for 5 days immediately succeeding the expiration date thereof.

Permits issued pursuant to this Order shall not be valid unless countersigned by the chief official in charge of the enforcement of the game laws of the State for which it is issued, or a duly authorized representative, and shall be revocable in the discretion of the Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey or the person countersigning the same.

Each person to whom a permit is issued pursuant to this Order, within 10 days after the expiration of his permit, shall make a written report to the Chief, Bureau of Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., correctly setting forth the number of coots killed thereunder by him and the disposition made of them, and he also, at the same time, shall furnish the chief game official in charge of the enforcement of the game and/or fish laws of the State for which issued with a copy of said report. Failure to submit a report as required herein may result in the nonissuance of future permits.

This Order shall continue in effect until revoked by the Secretary of Agriculture.

A. M. Duulaf
Acting Secretary.

Issued: April 5, 1932